

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

Vol. VI

DECEMBER, 1911

No. 4

CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

ORGAN OF THE

National Congress of Mothers

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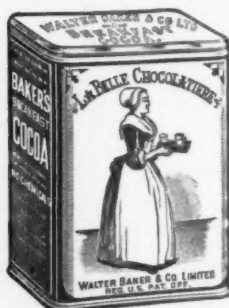
PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST BY THE
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS, 227 SOUTH
SIXTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

50 CENTS A YEAR

10 CENTS A NUMBER

Entered as Second Class Matter, Nov. 29, 1909, at the Post Office at Philadelphia, Pa.,
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CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

ORGAN OF THE

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

BOARD: MRS. FREDERIC SCHOFF, MRS. J. P. MUMFORD,
HOWARD W. LIPPINCOTT, Chairman Magazine Committee.

Subscriptions and all communications relating to THE MAGAZINE to
Business Manager, 227 South 6th Street, Philadelphia.

Send orders for literature and loan papers to Washington office, 806 Loan and Trust
Building. MRS. ARTHUR A. BIRNEY, Cor. Secretary.

Vol. VI.

DECEMBER, 1911

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The President's Desk

EVERY municipality has considered some phases of child care and in every city there are certain departments covering special lines of education and protection. Educators have met, citizens have met, to discuss these and to promote special interests. All this has been done for the children, yet there are many things to do before all the rights of the child are guarded.

It is a matter of deep significance that the Mayor of a great city like Philadelphia, after serving for several years and becoming thoroughly acquainted with all parts of the city government and all conditions in the city, should plan for a Child-Welfare Conference in the City Hall, working out every detail thereof in consultation with an appointed committee and conducting all the arrangements from the office of the Mayor, thus giving it the official backing, which promises a more co-ordinated, careful planning for the welfare of the future children of Philadelphia.

Following a municipal planning conference for the beauty and development of the city, it is fitting that the Mayor should also plan to cover the many needs of the youth of the city. To show what the municipality is doing for children, to show what it should do for children, is the purpose of the conference.

Over two hundred men and women who are giving service to the children in private philanthropic educational organizations are members of the committees.

The subjects covered are as follows:

Laws of Pennsylvania.
Ordinances of Philadelphia.
Homes and Housing.
Schools.
Health.
Orphans and Foundlings.
Deficient and Epileptic.
Neglected and Delinquent.
Police Department.
Juvenile Court.
District Attorney.
Detention House.
Station Houses.
Alms House.
Playgrounds and Recreation.
The Press and Child Welfare.

Philadelphia Children at Work and Play.
Libraries and Reading Rooms.
Immigrant Children.
Training Schools and Agencies for Care of Erring Children.
Educational Agencies for Child Welfare Outside of School.
Child Helping Agencies.
Churches and Child Welfare.
Employers of Children.
General Organizations Doing Some Work for Child Welfare.
Philadelphia Charitable Agencies.
Sunday Schools and Child Welfare.

The committee in charge of each subject has had the entire arrangement of the programme, thus giving great breadth of view and variety of thought.

The conferences continue from November 20 to December 2, with sessions at three and eight P.M.

The City Hall, illuminated with "Child Welfare Conference" in electric lights, evidences the awakening of civic responsibility toward the broad consideration of all the needs of all the children. Every day shows added interest in the little children, whose future will be so bright when the grown-ups really understand them and give them the guidance and protection that will develop the highest possibilities of body and soul.

The principles for which the Mothers' Congress has labored so many years are gradually permeating the world. It is of interest to every Congress member that the President of the National Congress of Mothers was asked to outline the plans which were carried out by the Mayor. The November issue of the magazine "Philadelphia," published by the City Government, is devoted entirely to "Philadelphia's Work for the Health and Happiness of the Children." Anyone desiring it can have a copy by sending to Mr. E. J. Cattell, City Hall. Mark the year 1911. Child-Welfare Exhibits have been arranged by the generosity of private citizens in New York, Chicago, and Kansas City, also in Portland, Oregon, by the Mothers' Congress.

The National Congress of Mothers in October accepted plans presented by Mrs. David O. Mears for a nation-wide campaign for child welfare, and Philadelphia bravely leads off and sets the pace for every other city by its municipal Child-Welfare Conference, thus giving an impetus to this important feature which the Congress desires to emphasize.

The invitation issued by the Mayor is appended.

PHILADELPHIA CHILD WELFARE PLANNING CONFERENCE AND EXHIBIT

Held under the auspices of the City of Philadelphia, Mayor's Office, Room 202, City Hall, November 20 to December 2, 1911.

You are cordially invited to attend the sessions of the Philadelphia Child Welfare Planning Conference and to view the Exhibit held in connection therewith in the office of the Mayor.

The general programme of the Conference is herewith given, and after each conference an informal discussion of the subject of the Conference will be held, in which you are invited to participate, in order that the Child Welfare work of both public and private character in this city may be co-ordinated for the greater good of the child.

JOHN E. REYBURN,
Mayor of Philadelphia.

HOW SHALL WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

FATHERS and mothers take such pleasure in making their children happy that they often give them more than is good for them. They fail to realize that their own deepest pleasure in Christmas is the happiness they give to others.

Why not apply the principle to the children and let them experience the joy of giving as well as receiving?

One of the most important lessons we can teach our children is thought for others, and a love of service. On Christmas day above all others should this be the key-note of the day. Our Heavenly Father came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and He gave His life a sacrifice to others.

The real significance of Christmas must be kept in view; the day should be a holy day, rich with the spirit of love and desire to make others happy.

CHOOSING GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

CHILDREN always enjoy toys or playthings that give them something to do. Blocks are a never-failing pleasure. Tools and wood for boy or girl, designs they can copy, give occupation for days.

Flower seeds and a window box where they may be planted will give real pleasure as well as education. Dolls whose clothes come off, with material for making other garments will give pleasure to the little girl and teach her sewing at the same time.

Simple gifts and not too many of them should be the rule. A paint box is an unfailing source of pleasure to boy or girl. Good books and games are always desirable.

The Christian Ideal of Marriage

By REV. LYMAN ABBOTT, D.D.

At Religious Education Association

IN the twenty years ending 1906, there were nearly *one million* divorces granted in the United States. That means one thousand every week, or one hundred and fifty every working day in the year. It would seem as though those figures were sufficiently significant. But the causes for which these divorces are granted are quite as significant. They are granted for every kind of cause from adultery to incompatibility of temper.

Love, binding together in essential, vital, fundamental unity in diversity, man and woman, creates the family. It is not made by contract. It is not a bargain. It has no relation to partnership. It is the one fundamental law of life. Deeper even than humanity, this combination of the sexes runs down into the animal race, yes! down into the vegetable kingdom. It is the universal law of all God's creation. The family is the foundation on which not merely the commonwealth, not merely the Church, but the whole of life itself, rests. Whatever undermines it undermines the very foundation of life, and, if it succeeded, would bring all life down in one great, irretrievable, hopeless chaos.

And the object of this family is not the happiness of the man and the woman. That is not the end of it. If it fails to accomplish that, it has not failed of its purpose.

It is true that there is an immeasurable joy in the married life. But that is not the end. This husband and this wife have not come, if they be true man and woman, seeking for joy. This man has come seeking new responsibilities, new burdens, new tasks, a larger duty; and this woman has come—I wonder at her courage every time she does—seeking for new pains and anguishes, it may be death itself; that these two may join with their Creator in giving new life to the world.

The escape from the unhappiness that sometimes comes in marriage is not divorce. Fleeing from trouble is the first escape of the coward. Fleeing from trouble is the last escape of a hero. I do not say that there are not times when a wife may leave her husband. I do not even say that there may not perhaps come times when a husband may leave his wife. But I *do* say this: they do not occur a hundred and fifty times a day. The shame of it! The cowardice of it! Whenever life becomes burdensome, lay it down!

Shall Abraham Lincoln lay down his presidency because it means carrying the nation as a burden on his shoulders for four years? Shall George Washington lay down his task because it means the cavils and corruption of a Congress plotting against him? Shall William of Orange lay down his task because

it means mental anguish, while he struggles with the parties that are professing to support him, and are really working against him? Shall Jesus Christ lay down His work because he would escape the mental anguish of Gethsemane and the crucifixion?

We shall not get rid of this blot that breaks up our families by mere changes in laws—by new marriage laws, divorce laws, whether federal laws or state laws. We must go deeper than that. The Church has a duty in this matter: to bring home upon its congregations the truth that happiness is not the end of life, and no life is worth living that has not in it service and self-sacrifice.

The schools have a duty in this matter. In the eighteenth century, girls were *prepared* for marriage. Now it is not considered proper to suggest to a girl that perhaps she is going to be married. She just tumbles into it by accident.

We need to bring to bear a new public sentiment upon our schools and our colleges, in regard to the whole structure of society and the harmony of life. For I hold that above the name of president, or king, or bishop, or pope, is this name of Home-builder. And, in our homes, we fathers and mothers have a duty to perform—to teach our boys and girls the mystery of life and of its beginnings, and not let them tumble into the knowledge through prurient curiosity and evil counsellors.

It is a great work the future generation has before it—to drive out from America this paganism that is rooted in individual selfishness and bring in the Christian ideal of marriage: A permanent social organism, the foundation of society, *built on the law of God, revealing the love of God, carrying out the life of God, and doing the creative work of God.*

For a Better Race

"THE man who dared" did us a great public service when he created the phrase "race suicide." Like many other utterances of his, it set mankind a-thinking and echoes of it come daily from both sides of the sea.

There has been recently published in London a manifesto on public morals that ought to and will receive very serious attention. It is issued by the National Council of Public Morals. It bears the signatures of about seventy men and women prominent in all grades of English society, including members of the nobility, bishops and clergy

of the several denominations, physicians, scientists, and others.

These men express their "alarm at the low and degrading views of the racial instinct" that are widely circulated, as "imperilling the very life of the nation." They point to the decline of the birth rate as evidencing the evasion of the great obligations of parenthood, and the degradation of the marriage tie. They point to the corrupting effect on growth of both sexes of the circulation of pernicious literature, which they say was never so damaging as it is now.

Child-Study Department

By ELIZABETH HARRISON

OUR CLOUDED INSIGHT

IV

It was apparently the little fellow's first experience in church attendance. I had noticed him when he and his grandmother came in. He had stared about him in awed surprise at the unusual surroundings. He seemed a rather serious-minded child and having finished his inspection of the interior of the church he turned to the study of his grandmother in what was evidently to him her new rôle of church attendant. As he was very quiet and demure in this, my mind soon drifted back to the morning services.

The hymns and prayers were over and the clergyman was in the midst of his firstly or secondly, I have forgotten which, when my attention was once more diverted by an old gentleman nearby who was shaking with suppressed laughter. Naturally enough my eyes followed in the direction in which he was looking and I saw that the little boy whom I had before observed was the cause of the old gentleman's merriment. The grandmother had fallen into a light doze (the prerogative of old age, I hold), but the boy sat bolt upright gazing at the clergyman in complete absorption. Every gesture of the preacher was being reproduced by the boy. If the former solemnly lifted his hand in declaration, up went the arm of

the latter in like solemnity. When the clergyman extended his arm to emphasize the breadth of his argument, out went the boy's arm with equal earnestness. If the one gave an emphatic nod of his head to reaffirm some statement he had just made, a like jerk of the head came from the other, his eyes never once wandering from the face of the somewhat embarrassed preacher. It was really one of the funniest performances I had ever seen, and in a moment more I, too, was shaking with laughter. Of course the amusement soon spread to all who could see the child. Even the young clergyman himself at last smiled broadly. As the scene reached this stage the grandmother awoke. An expression of horrified astonishment spread over her face. She seized the child's arm and shook him. Then followed a whispered reprimand accompanied by a stern frown. The boy lost his solemn absorbed appearance, looked at his grandmother first with a puzzled face and then indignantly and then silently moved over to the other end of the seat. However, the old lady's eyes were now reprovingly fixed upon him and he became self-conscious and restless, while we, the amused observers, returned to our proper church behavior.

I stood one afternoon waiting my turn to be served in a small bric-a-brac shop, when a young woman came in. Her painted cheeks, showy but somewhat bedrabbled finery and cheap jewelry told only too plainly the sad, sad trade by which she earned a living for herself and the two-year-old child whom she led by the hand. In a few moments she was announcing "her opinion" of the head saleswoman who had evidently refused to take back some article the woman had purchased a day or two before, for which she was demanding the money to be returned to her. After enduring much abusive language expressed by the young woman, in a high-pitched, nervous treble, the saleswoman stepped to the telephone and called up the nearest police station. The woman evidently knew the number for her manner changed at once from demanding to pleading for the money, saying that she and the child were starving; that they had been turned out of their room and she did not know where they were to sleep that night. Evidently the saleswoman knew her, or she was accustomed to such tales of distress, for she merely looked out of the window as if awaiting the arrival of the policeman. At this the young woman dropped into a nearby chair and burst into an hysterical fit of weeping, sobbing inarticulately and rocking her body to and fro. The child, up to this time, had been amusing himself with a kitten that was in the shop. But on hearing the wailing sobs he dropped the string he had been dangling before the kitten and went at once to his mother's side. At

first he tried to divert her attention by pulling at her dress. Then for a few moments he stood gazing intently into her face with his little hand patting her knee sympathetically; soon the tears began to roll down his cheeks and in a few moments he was weeping pitifully, exclaiming as he sobbed, "Oh dear! mommie, mommie! Oh dear! Oh dear!" in a tone of deepest distress.

A young girl had come forward to wait on me. Together we had witnessed the scene. "Isn't it a shame," she whispered, indignantly glancing at the head saleswoman, "to make a poor little child suffer like that for the sake of a little money!"

My point in telling these two incidents is to illustrate the first stage in the movement of mind, or what is meant by "the *ego* unconscious unity with its activities." The child in the church was not in the least degree deserving of the rebuke given him by his grandmother. He had meant no disrespect to the clergyman. In fact he was not at all conscious of what he was doing. He was absorbing the gestures of the clergyman and instinctively reproducing them. The grandmother, not understanding this, had administered a reproof for intentional misbehavior and had injured the child's sense of justice.

The child in the shop was in no way comprehending his mother's difficulties—his tears were merely the nervous response to her hysterical conditions.

Both stories go, however, to show how necessary it is that we should try to understand "the movement of mind" of which I spoke in my

last paper. In other words that we cannot rightly understand a child by merely judging of his external conduct.

The kindergartner realizes the importance of understanding this first unconscious state of the child, and considers the right treatment of it as one of the most important parts of her work. And the mother should understand it even more than does the kindergartner, for the younger the child the more he is under the control of these dim first feelings out of which conscious life grows.

Anything like a satisfactory explanation of this important subject is far beyond the limit of a magazine article. But much that is of practical value can be pointed out. The mind may not be in the least conscious of the stimulation which calls forth this or that feeling from the vast storehouse of inherited instincts, impulses, hungers, and passions, but the influence of the stimulation is working for good or evil; and the outcome of the unheeded influence is often clearly shown, when the *ego* passes from the unconscious stage to the conscious stage in which responsibility begins to dawn.

In speaking of this first stage in which the *ego* or self is not yet conscious of itself and does not separate itself from the impression made upon it, Froebel, in his "Education of Man" says: "At this stage of development the young and growing human being is called *Saugling* (suckling), for this he is in the fullest sense of the word; for sucking in (absorbing) is as yet the almost exclusive activity of the

child," and again in speaking of the same subject he continues: "It is highly important for man's present and later life that he absorb nothing morbid, low, mean; nothing ambiguous, nothing bad." He goes on to urge fresh air, clear light, a clean room, however needy it may be in other respects, as well as quiet voices and "pure countenances" as needed not merely for the physical welfare of the infant, but in order that only the purer, better emotions of the inner self may be awakened; for out of the emotional activity of the child grows his *voluntary* will activity. What a child loves he willingly does. It is not what he is coerced into doing that tells most either in character-building or in vigor of mental acquisition. I do not mean by this that children should never be compelled to obey authority, but that true freedom and self-control grow best from voluntary obedience. *Coercion is the surgeon's knife that must sometimes be used.* Right obedience to authority is the salvation of every child. But the wise understanding of how to awaken the better emotions and how to give the needed impressions while the young mind is in this absorbing, unresisting stage is highly important. It secures for the young infant a quiet, serene and as undisturbed as possible infancy with proper surroundings obtained often at the sacrifice of travel, society, and release from personal attendance. It also holds good as the child grows older. I was reading only the other day an article written by a famous musician in which he urges that the educating of the young ear should begin long before the education of

the young fingers. He argues that a large amount of needless indifference to good music, even hatred of it, is caused by putting a child to the practice of the technical side of it before a love for it has been awakened. This is but one illustration of the wasted efforts of well meaning mothers and the worse-than-wasted precious hours of childhood that come from the lack of under-

standing of this first simple statement of psychology.

I will speak in my next article of ways and means by which mothers can supply the right kind of stimulation for the awakening of the right impulses and how a knowledge of the kindergarten helps this important part of maternal nurturing of the divine spark in each child.

Mother and Child

THE National Executive Board has adopted the following one of several plans for raising a fund for the extension of its child-welfare work. It asks the hearty co-operation of all its branches. Having secured the sole publication rights on an attractive "Mother and Child" book, The National Congress of Mothers offers it for sale at a nominal cost (30c. each) to every member of every mothers' club. Samples of the book and a letter from the national president have been sent to the president of every club.

This little 40-page booklet, with "Mother and Child" frontispiece, is most artistic in appearance, and covers in prose and poetry every phase of motherhood, making an ideal gift book for mothers of all ages and classes. Not only is the book a little treasury of comfort and cheer which each member will wish to possess, but the probabilities are very strong that she will wish to tuck away two or three extra copies as inexpensive, distinctive little

Christmas gifts—not to be bought in any shop. Those on the lookout for dainty Christmas presents will be particularly interested in this opportunity to secure a book which will be valuable throughout the entire year. Members purchasing them will, at the same time, have the satisfaction of knowing that every copy that they buy will aid the general child-welfare fund.

While it will probably be better, wherever possible, for the club to order collectively, single copies will be cheerfully forwarded upon request on receipt of 32 cents. As the strain on our delivery department will be very heavy during December, the manager would appreciate the courtesy of promptitude in ordering.

We hope that every club will co-operate heartily in this important matter of furthering the work of The National Congress of Mothers.

Address all correspondence and orders to the manager of the Mothers' Congress Special Booklets and Cards, Mrs. C. B. Jordan, 1516 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Juvenile Courts in Russia

From "L'Enfant"



WAITING ROOM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

ST. PETERSBURG has a juvenile court with M. Okouneff as judge. It was organized in January, 1910, without a special law, taking for its

basis the law of 1897 concerning unions. The publicity depends entirely on the judge himself. Five probation officers have been ap-



THE COURT

pointed with salary of 3000 francs per year. Some volunteers also serve.

The photographs were furnished by M. de Casabianca to "L'Enfant," and are copied for American readers to show how far advanced Russia is

in quiet hearings of children's cases.

The International Congress of Juvenile Courts does not find the solution which will apply to all countries, but endeavors to emphasize certain vital principles.



THE JUDGE, THE CHILD, THE PARENTS



THE CHILDREN WITH PROBATION OFFICER

The State's Duty for the Health of Children

By C. F. LANGWORTHY

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

THE National Government, state governments, and city governments do a great deal for the health and welfare of children. They safeguard property for children as well as for others; they take care of children in hospitals when they are ill, as they do of men and women if they cannot provide and care for themselves; and all alike, if unable to support themselves, are taken care of in public institutions, as we all know. Then, too, there are the public health agencies and activities, sewage disposal projects, a pure water supply, and many things of that sort, but the things which interest me most, because it so happens I have studied them, are the activities which have to do with the food of the people. The milk supply is looked after, as you know, and other foods are safeguarded by the food inspection work, the meat inspection work, and by other agencies of that sort.

It is not strange that the Department of Agriculture should have turned its attention to the study of food, because in the last analysis all food products—the crops, the fruits, the flocks, and the herds—are agricultural products and the Department of Agriculture having shown how to raise these products, and how to market them, naturally wishes to know how to utilize them to the best advantage. In doing this it was necessary to learn of what chemical substances foods are composed, their relative nutritive values, and the di-

gestibility of foods. It was also important to ascertain the kinds and amounts consumed under different circumstances by persons who were in good health, in order that we may know the normal amount required, not in pounds or total quantities consumed, nor in terms of chemical elements, but in terms of nitrogenous or tissue-building material, and energy, for it will be recalled that the two functions of food are to build tissue and to yield energy.

As regards composition, water is present in all foods. The moisture is obvious in a succulent green fruit, but it is not so apparent in dry foods like flour, but it is there just the same. Practically all foods contain a little mineral matter or ash. Aside from moisture and ash, the constituents are protein or nitrogenous material, of which the albumin of egg is typical; fat, such as butter fat, olive oil, or cotton-seed oil; and carbohydrates, such as starches, sugar and woody fibre. The protein, fat, and carbohydrates all are burned to yield energy in the body just as the engine burns coal under its boiler, but in addition to this function, the protein serves to build and repair tissue, and is the only nutrient which can serve for this purpose.

In the Department of Agriculture much attention has been given to the diet of men and women because that was a natural place to begin the study of such problems. It has seemed almost inevitable that

the study of the diet of children, and particularly of young children, should be left to the physician, so we in the Department of Agriculture have studied chiefly the diet of adults, though we have also studied the diet of children to some extent, and I wish we could do it more extensively.

We have issued many food publications which we distribute gratis on request. Through a notice in the magazine which the Mothers' Congress publishes hundreds of requests for our publications have been received, and we are glad to send them. However, we have not been able to grant the specific request for a publication on the diet of young children because, so far, that subject has seemed outside of our field of work. I am glad to say that at Teachers' College, Columbia University, they have recently published a pamphlet on this subject. I think it is sold for a small sum.

Ours is a comparatively new country and we produce food in great abundance, and a few years ago it would have been said by most of us that the problem of undernourishment did not exist in the United States because we know that the people as a whole are well nourished. In many other countries they have been greatly troubled with problems of undernourishment. That it existed was brought out by the fact that so many young men were rejected as physically unfit when they were examined for the army. National efforts have been made in some European countries to remedy this condition.

We have found in our nutrition studies and similar lines of work that in many of the larger cities

in the United States there are a considerable number—and far too large a proportion—of children who are undernourished, and who consequently are more subject to disease than a well-nourished child, and are less intelligent in their school work. To remedy this, public-spirited men and women, or in some cases the city government, have taken steps to supply lunches to the children, giving them to those who are absolutely needy, and selling them at cost to those able to pay for them, this distinction being made without the knowledge of the pupils as a whole, so that those who are needy may keep their self-respect. Such a movement has been carried on for several years in Philadelphia and has proved unusually successful. The luncheon, in which each article costs a penny, is served in a number of schools, the total number of pupils fed in a year being very large. It is the hope to make this luncheon self-supporting, and the skill shown by the young woman who has charge of the enterprise is apparent from the fact that her accounts for the year balanced almost exactly, there being a total profit of about one dollar.

Now, fostering such work as this is one of the things that your organization can do, and, it seems to me, is as fine a piece of work as one could be engaged in—to help children, by means of suitable and adequate food, to develop strong bodies, in order that they may have normal minds and that they may take advantage of the educational opportunities offered them. I suppose we can say truthfully that there is nothing more important for normal

development than an adequate diet made up of wholesome materials, well prepared.

If the food supply is inadequate it is probable that the growing child will become stunted in every way, and most physiologists agree that no one thing so much contributes to the health and efficiency of the parent, the child, and the whole family as a rational and well-balanced diet. Neither elaborate foods, food fancy work, nor anything of that sort is needed, but rather simple, wholesome living, with foods decently prepared and decently served.

At the Department of Agriculture we have studied these food and nutrition problems for about twenty-five years. The work began as a result of investigations which Professor Atwater carried on twenty-five years and more ago for the Smithsonian Institution, which was so useful that the project was taken up in a systematic way by the general government. We have made dietary studies in some 400 families under all sorts of conditions—in the slums of the large cities, in the homes of the well-to-do, in the homes of farmers, of professional men, of artisans, and of day laborers as well as in public institutions, including orphan asylums and homes for the aged. As a result of this kind of work, I think we are now fitted to do for the public institution what the expert accountant or the business expert can do for a business enterprise. We can tell

whether things are wrong or right in the food of an institution. If they are not arranged in accord with good standards we can tell how to right them. We can frequently show how to serve a better diet for the price which is being paid at present, or can suggest a better diet for a lower price. Seldom is there intentional wrong-doing in the management of such problems. It is rather that through a lack of knowledge the best use is not made of food resources.

Every woman knows something of the wearing quality of cloth, and if she wishes to select on any other basis than that of appearance she takes into account the wearing quality. It is seldom that the housewife considers the real nutritive value of foods when they are purchased, yet it can and should be done. It is too often appearance which is taken into account, and that is not the best basis, because one can spend a great deal of money for the daily fare and still be undernourished if out-of-season, high-priced foods are the ones selected. We have tried to find ways of telling what are the proper foods, and also ways of preparing them economically and attractively, and have compiled many pamphlets for the use of housekeepers, which deal with food value, food selection, dietary standards, the relative digestibility of food, the care of food in the home, its preparation for the table, and related topics.

Christmas Suggestions for Children's Books

By MARGARET C. WORCESTER

Chairman Children's Book List, Committee N. C. M.

IN addition to the books named below, parents or librarians will find the names of one thousand other good books in the Children's Book List which can be secured by sending ten cents to National Congress of Mothers, 806 Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C. It is worth while to select the children's books with care. This will help you to do it.

PICTURE BOOKS AND STORIES FOR LITTLE CHILDREN

Arabella and Araminta Stories. Gertrude Smith. Small, Maynard. \$1.00 net.

Book of Folk Stories. Houghton & Mifflin. 15c. net.

Book of the Sea. Paper, 50c.; linen, 75c. E. P. Dutton.

Clean Peter and the Children of Grubby. By Ottilia Adelborg. Longmans. \$1.25.

Father and Baby Plays. Anne Smith Poulsson. Century Co. 100 pp.; \$1.25.

The Farm Book. E. Boyd Smith. The Chicken World. Colored pictures; \$1.25.

Folk Lore Reader. Compiled by E. O. Grover. 111 pages; 30c.

Golden Goose Book. Leslie Brooks. Warne. 50c.

Finger Plays for Nursery and Kindergarten. Emilie A. Poulsson. Hiawatha Primer. Florence Holbrook. Houghton & Mifflin. 50c.

Indian Child Life. Edwin W. Downing. Stokes. \$2.00.

Little Red Riding Hood. Illus-

trated by Walter Crane. Lane. 30c.

My Pussy Cat Book. Fine pictures that babies love. E. P. Dutton. Paper 50c.; Linen 75c.

Our Moo-Cow Book. Paper 50c.; Linen 75c. E. P. Dutton.

Mother Hubbard. Illustrated by Walter Crane. Lane.

Old Farm Story Box. 4 volumes; 64 pp.; \$1.00 each. Virginia Bennett. E. P. Dutton.

Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens. J. M. Barrie. Scribner. 126 pp.; \$1.50.

Six Nursery Classics. M. V. O'Shea. Heath. 20c.

Under the Window. Illustrated. Kate Greenaway. Warne. \$1.50.

NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENCE.

Earth and Sky Every Child Should Know. Julia E. Rogers. Doubleday Page. \$1.20 net.

First Studies in Plant Life. Geo. F. Athuism. Holt. 60c.

The Friendly Stars. Martha Evans Martin. Harper. 265 pp.; \$1.25 net.

How to Know the Trees. Alice Lounsberry. Stokes. \$1.75.

Vol. I, The Insect Folk. Vol. II, Butterflies and Bees. Margaret W. Morley. Ginn. 60c. each.

Machinery Book for Boys. Adams. Illustrated. \$1.75. Harper. Moths and Butterflies. Mary C. Dickerson. Ginn. \$2.50.

Second Book of Birds. Olive Thorne Muller. \$1.00. Houghton & Mifflin.

Adrift on An Ice Pan. Wilfred

T. Grenfell. Houghton & Mifflin.
69 pp.; 75c.

Children's Book of London.
Geraldine E. Milton. Illustrated.
Black, London. 375 pp.; \$1.50.

Twilight Land. Fairy Tales by
Howard Pyle. Harper, \$1.50.

Tom Paulding. Brander Mat-
thews. Century Co. 254 pp.; \$1.50.

Why the Chimes Rang. Raymond
Macdonald Alden. Illustrated.
Bobbs Merrill Co. 148 pp.

The Wonder Clock. 24 marvel-
lous tales written and illustrated by
Howard Pyle, \$2.00.

Young Trailers. J. A. Altsheler.
A Story of Early Kentucky. Ap-
pleton, \$1.50.

Golden Staircase. Louey Chis-
holm. Putnam, \$1.50.

Fairy Tales—English, Celtic,
Indian. Joseph Jacobs. Putnam,
\$1.25 each.

Luck of the Dudley Grahams.
Alice Calhoun Haines. Holt, \$1.25.

Confidences. Talks with a young
girl concerning herself. Truths.
Talks with a boy concerning him-
self. Dr. Edith B. Lowry. Pub-
lished by Father & Co., Chicago.

The Belief in Santa Claus

By MARY E. MUMFORD

At this season recurs the old question which will not down: Ought we to allow our children to believe in Santa Claus? Parents are lined up on both sides of the controversy, but in most families the mysterious friend of the children still holds his sway. The fact is the average parent goes back to his own childhood, and remembers his own delight in the marvel of his Christmas gifts, and hates to withhold the same thrilling experience from his children. Then he recalls also that the awakening to the truth came to him so gradually that he was hardly aware of any shock—a doubt, a questioning now and then, and a final assertion in which he felt a triumph, a sense of mastery in "putting away childish things."

In one family I know, the little folks are prepared for the awakening by being always told that Santa Claus is the spirit of Christmas. And the word spirit gradually changes in their minds from the concrete fairy

idea to an understanding of the indwelling spirit of kindness in the heart. There is one aspect of the Santa Claus or mystery idea which is beneficent, and this phase of it is in most families the chief joy. It is the care-free delight in the Christmas gift. Most children have more sense of family responsibility than parents give them credit for. Nobody knows how much the child suffers when he sees the shoes giving way at the toes, or when an incautious slide on the cellar door results in the ruin of a pair of trousers. How many people recall even to old age the anxiety they experienced when their needs depleted the family purse, always scanty in its supply. How often they silently mourned that their clothes and books were bought at the sacrifice of the comforts of father or mother or some other member of the family. But the Christmas gifts were a golden pleasure without one jot of alloy. They dropped straight down from

the sky and father's purse was none the leaner for their coming. So I cannot quite agree with the writer in *The Outlook* who says:

"Last Christmas our little boy, then twenty-one months old, was not especially interested in anything that was said to him of Santa Claus, but rather connected each new toy, his tree, and everything else, with his father, seeming to think his father had done everything for him. It occurred to me then: Was this not a more beautiful way to believe, and

perhaps nearer the truth, of the Christmas season?"

But if we perpetuate the myth pray do not allow it to be vulgarized, as is so common nowadays, with men grotesquely dressed as Santa Claus and pretending to be dispensers of gifts to little children. Let each little brain work out its own conception of its unseen but loving friend. Let the imagination play around the spiritual thought, and from it may come the first conception of a Father which is in heaven.

Rural Child Welfare

THE American Highway Association met in Richmond, Va., November 20 to 24. The Rural Child Welfare Department of the Congress is affiliated with this Association and delegates were sent to represent the Congress. Mrs. Frank De Garmo, chairman of the department, has visited Vineland and Red Bank, N. J.; Philadelphia, Langhorne and Swarthmore, Pa.; Newark, Wilmington, Dover, Georgetown and Milford, Del., during November.

Mrs. De Garmo has aroused a deep interest in this important branch of the Congress work.

Mrs. George K. Johnson, president of the Pennsylvania Congress; Mrs. A. H. Reeve, president of the New Jersey Congress; and Mrs.

George W. Marshall, president of the Delaware Congress, arranged the meetings, and the United States Department of Good Roads furnished the lantern slides, which have greatly added to the interest of the lectures.

Other states desiring Mrs. De Garmo's help may secure her if the request be sent to Hon. Logan W. Page, Department of Good Roads, Washington, D. C.

IN Missouri and Illinois the state highway engineers are active co-operators with the Mothers' Congress and especially Hon. Curtis Hill, who has appointed Missouri women to lecture for the Department of Agriculture at road meetings throughout the state.

Department of Child Hygiene

By HELEN C. PUTNAM, A.B., M.D.

SCHOOL JANITORS AND HEALTH—II

"Every sanitary precaution necessary in private homes should be enforced many times more rigorously in schoolhouses."—"American Schoolhouses," Bulletin United States Bureau of Education.

THE test of the excellence of janitors' work, as indicated last month, is the health of children and teachers.

There is another very sensitive measurement of the work of janitors and the sanitary conditions of schoolrooms. Schools do not exist simply to turn out children from their grades or fit them for college, or train them to be good money-makers after leaving school. The true object—even if it is not yet generally proclaimed—is to make good mothers and good fathers of better generations.

The largest part of our strenuous social efforts to lessen the world's misery is directed against the unfitness of parents. Some of this unfitness is poor health. Some is ignorance of healthful ways of living, or it is wilful disobedience to laws of health.

The most sensitive measurement of the sanitary conditions of schoolrooms is the *rate at which babies under one year of age die*—what we call our infant mortality rate. This country stands highest in wealth among civilized nations. It stands also very high in crime, especially crimes against life. There is no country with such terrible records of industrial accidents and railway accidents; no country with such a rate of suicide and murder. Nearly

half of the suicides that have occurred in the last fifty years have occurred in the last ten; in some years we are having about 11,000 murders, the average is over 6,000 every year, and we convict less than two murderers in one hundred, while Germany convicts ninety-five in every hundred. The lives lost in any of the celebrated battles of history were few in comparison with those unnecessarily lost in these ways each year. This year will be the same, and next. How excited we would be if a thousandth as many were to be lost in a battle!

Of all our crimes against life the most humiliating is our infant mortality rate. We stand twenty-second in the list of civilized nations in this. Our great wealth has not saved the babies and the little children. Only nine countries have worse rates than ours.

More than twice as many babies born alive die annually in their first year as people at all ages from tuberculosis. In the last ten years two million babies born alive have died under one year of age. Four million children under five years of age have died in these ten years. Of these two million babies, one-third of the deaths occurred in the first month after birth. As many more probably occurred at or just before birth; while as many deaths prob-

ably occurred during the four months before birth as in the first nine months of the first year.

These deaths before birth and within a month after are distinctly due to the fathers and mothers who have not given the child enough vitality to survive. One exception to this statement would be those deaths due to murder of the child before it is born, whose number is not known, but is large.

Deaths after the first month are more likely to be due to bad care and to the environment, or to accidents, or to crime. If the health surroundings are so poor as to cause their death, in so far as health habits have been unhygienically formed at school, schools are responsible—such habits as becoming accustomed to dusty, dirty, badly ventilated, overheated rooms, and so having them at home. It is bad for a baby to live in a too hot room, with perhaps steam and dust, and too much clothing on.

And in so far as schools have promoted in potential parents the "school diseases," anæmia, nervous disorders, catarrhal and tuberculous conditions, by over-heated, dusty, arid air (which will be bad in other ways also if bad in these), all which details are in the direct care of janitors, our infant mortality rate becomes an index of our school sanitation. It is indeed, an index of civilization itself. If babies were well born and well cared for, their death rate would be negligible. This means that the infant mortality rate measures the intelligence, right living and health of fathers and mothers; the standards of sanitation and morals of communities and gov-

ernments; the efficiency of physicians, health boards, educators—and janitors. We measure twenty-second below the best in the list of thirty-one countries.

The first people in this country to care enough about the cleanliness of schoolhouses to really study it, spending money, labor, time and intelligent, even expert effort on the details, were, I believe, educated "home makers" — the Boston Branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnæ. They organized the work very thoughtfully and efficiently by securing the co-operation of the superintendent of schools and teachers, the custodian of buildings, the department of health, and two or three experts from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was all volunteer work for the good of the children.

They investigated perhaps one hundred details or more, but we will review only some of those directly concerned with the janitor's work as it affects health. They did not take any one's word for any housewifery that they could learn by their own observation. This was a very correct policy, for rules are one thing, the method of carrying them out in schoolhouse keeping just as in your housekeeping is another. Official replies to questionnaires are—official. Another strong point is that they did not drop the work after making their first report, but in two years, having waited long enough for improvements to be made, they took it up again and reported on the oversights; and seven years later, again. I shall be surprised if we do not hear from them further. The later reviews of the ground

showed that some improvement followed each investigation. But Boston has not yet "arrived" in the matter of clean schoolhouses. There is more for the "natural housekeepers" who have been scientifically trained in housewifery to do there, and in your city, too, or our tuberculosis statistics and infant mortality rate would not be so serious. Another good thing resulting was that their work being so well done inspired other branches to study the schools in their cities in the same fashion, and their reports produced local effects of more or less value.

One of the interesting discoveries made quite generally was that the requirements for cleanliness in schoolhouses, which were sometimes, as in Boston, inadequate, were not lived up to. In Boston their report stated that while it was provided that stairways and passages should be swept daily, and the rooms twice a week (imagine a home with a

few score or hundreds of children swept that often), in over half the schools the halls were swept only twice a week instead of daily, in two it was done but once a week, and in one only once a month.

Entries, stairs, rails and furniture were to be dusted every morning; but it was found that classrooms were dusted less often than once a week by eight janitors, only twice a week by eighty, daily by teachers or pupils or janitors in fifty-two schools, and daily by janitors according to the rules in only forty-three of the 193 schools studied.

There was a rule that desks, seats and woodwork be cleaned whenever necessary. Twenty-one janitors thought it was never necessary and had never done it; twenty-four had done it once; fifteen had done it rarely; twenty-one did it occasionally; twelve, twice a year; ten, oftener; while in sixty schools all such cleaning was done in the long vacations.

Persia

MME. ALI-KULI KHAN, wife of the charge d'affaires of Persia, has received through the official mail of the legation an imperial firman whereby the Persian government confers upon her "the first gold decoration of learning." The firman announces this to be an honor in recognition of her services to the Persian nation, especially as Persia's delegate to the International Congress of Mothers held here last spring. Mme. Khan's charming address to the congress has been

greatly praised in Persia. The decoration is in the form of a seven-pointed golden star, with many golden rays, in the centre of which is the national emblem of "the lion and sun" in gold relief upon an enamelled background. This is the highest decoration of learning in the gift of Persia, Madame Khan's previous gift being second to this. As she is an American woman, these favors are the more appreciated, and she is the first American woman to be so honored by Persia.

Aims and Purposes of National Congress of Mothers

To raise the standards of home life. To develop wiser, better-trained parenthood.

To give young people, ignorant of the proper care and training of children, opportunities to learn this, that they may better perform the duties of parenthood.

To bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parent and teacher may coöperate intelligently in the education of the child.

To surround the childhood of the whole world with that loving, wise care in the impressionable years of life, that will develop good citizens, instead of lawbreakers and criminals.

To use systematic, earnest effort to this end, through the formation of Mothers' Clubs in every Public School and elsewhere; the establishment of Kindergartens, and laws which will adequately care for neglected and dependent children, in the firm belief that united, concerted work for little children will pay better than any other philanthropic work that can be done.

To carry the mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns or touches childhood in Home, School, Church, State or Legislation.

To interest men and women to coöperate in the work for purer, truer homes, in the belief that to accomplish the best results, men and women must work together.

To secure such legislation as will ensure that children of tender years may not be tried in ordinary courts, but that each town shall establish juvenile courts and special officers, whose business it shall be to look out for that care which will rescue, instead of confirm, the child in evil ways.

To work for such probationary care in individual homes rather than institutions.

To rouse the whole community to a sense of its duty and responsibility to the blameless, dependent and neglected children, because there is no philanthropy which will so speedily reduce our taxes, reduce our prison expenses, reduce the expense of institutions for correction and reform.

The work of the Congress is civic work in its broadest and highest sense, and every man or woman who is interested in the aims of the Congress is cordially invited to become a member and aid in the organized effort for a higher, nobler national life, which can only be attained through the individual homes.

State News

IMPORTANT NOTICE

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the fifteenth of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks the attention of every press chairman to the necessity of complying with this rule.

COLORADO

The State Board of the Colorado Congress of Mothers will furnish speakers on the following subjects for the year 1911-1912:

1. The Story as a Factor in Child Training.
2. Amusements *v.s.* Dissipation.
3. The House We Live In.
4. From Girlhood to Womanhood.
5. Sex Hygiene.
6. Health and How to Have It.
7. School Luncheons.
8. Law and Order.
9. Wild Oats.
10. Obedience.
11. Review—The Study of Child Nature. Harrison.
12. Forbearance and Self-Control.
13. The Art of Being Comfortable to Live With.
14. Teaching the Child to Save.
15. Unconscious Influence.

16. Ten-Minute Talks at Bedtime.
17. Letting Alone as a Means of Child Training.
18. How to Interest the Children in Nature.
19. Total Abstinence.
20. Care of the Eyes.
21. The Power of Little Things.
22. The Protection and Guidance of Young Girls.
23. Evening Amusements for Our Big Boys and Girls.
24. Is a Lie to Children Ever Justifiable?
25. Great Mothers.
26. Needs of the School.
27. The Practical Use of Literature for Ethical Training.
28. Some Methods of Handling Dishonesty.
29. The Value of Service.
30. The Sunday Programme.
31. Domestic Science.
32. Training Children to Regard the Rights of Others.

- 33. Child Culture from 10 to 20.
- 34. Mothers' Work and Wages.
- 35. Respect and Reverence.
- 36. Companionship.

Committee: Mrs. F. B. Conine, Chairman, Phone Gallup 23; Mrs. Fred Dick, Gallup 164; Mrs. E. P. Costigan, York 5477.

The Denver Circle of the National Congress of Mothers has just published a year-book for 1911-12. Over four hundred members are listed therein.

CONNECTICUT

Much interest is being manifested in the courses being given at the Hartford School of Religious Pedagogy with especial reference to Parents and Teachers. One course is given by Dr. George E. Dawson; subject, Educational Psychology; Course II, upon Education of the Emotions, by Prof. Edward P. St. John; Course III, Story-telling for Educational Ends, by Prof. E. P. St. John.

Many parents and teachers are taking advantage of these courses.

The Motherhood Club of Hartford has prepared an entertaining and instructive course of lectures for the year 1911-1912. Calendars of the lectures and social meetings have been distributed. They show an instructive programme tastefully presented. The lecturers include Professor Sneath, of Yale, Dean Southwick, of the Emerson College of Oratory, Miss Caroline M. Hewins, of Hartford, and Miss Bertha E. Sharpleigh, of Columbia University.

Connecticut is recognizing the value of Parent-Teachers' Associations, and beginning to feel the impetus of this new movement so that such associations are now forming in large numbers.

New Britain now has one in every school, and one has lately been formed there in the High School. Mrs. Wm. Macdonald, the State Organizer, who has spent much time addressing clubs and corresponding with superintendents of schools in reference to this work, was much gratified when one superintendent of schools in one of the larger cities told her he would raise the salary of any teacher or principal who would start a club.

The fact that there are now five flourishing clubs in that city, and others soon to be formed, shows what can be done, provided the co-operation of the superintendant of schools can be secured.

One new club has been formed in Waterbury in the Town Plot School, with 35 members. President, Mrs. John Withey; vice-president, Mrs. Hayden Nichols; secretary, Mrs. Wm. Treat; treasurer, Mrs. M. C. German.

The fact that these 35 members came out in a drenching storm the day this club

was organized shows the interest taken by the parents and teachers in these school clubs.

Miss Marion R. Perkins, a kindergarten teacher of Hartford, 719 Asylum Avenue, has consented to address clubs upon the need and work of kindergartens in the public schools. As many of our towns have no kindergartens, and do not see the need of them, it is very necessary that this work be presented. Miss Perkins attended the International Convention on Child Welfare at Washington, D. C., and has been instrumental with the help of the principal in forming and maintaining a mothers' club in the Wilson Street School, which is connected with the Congress.

This club had for its speaker at the November meeting Miss De Witt, a Deaconess in Trinity Church, who spoke upon "Religion in the Home." The December meeting will be addressed by Miss Julia Havermeier, and will be a travel talk, illustrated with stereopticon views.

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Connecticut Congress of Mothers was held at the Hotel Elton, Waterbury, November 21. A fine luncheon was enjoyed. Two new committees have been appointed—Juvenile Court and Home Economics.

Mrs. B. L. Mott, president of the C. C. M., addressed the November meeting of the Oakville Mothers' Club, which was held in the Parish House of the Episcopal Church. Several other clubs were invited, and much interest manifested.

Mrs. Wm. H. Macdonald, the State Organizer, gave an address on the "Work and Opportunities of Parent-Teacher Association" at the Mulcahy School, Waterbury. The Town Plot School Parent-Teacher Association was the guest of the Mulcahy School Association.

Mr. Wm. H. Macdonald gave an address upon "The Duty of a State to Its Children" before the Town Plot School Parent-Teacher Association in Waterbury.

DELAWARE

Mrs. George W. Marshall, president Delaware Congress of Mothers, arranged to have stereopticon lectures to Parents' Associations by Mrs. Frank De Garmo, of St. Louis, chairman Rural Child Welfare and special agent United States Department of Agriculture.

Mrs. De Garmo gave her lecture on Good Roads at Newark, Wilmington, Milford, Georgetown, and Dover.

The Central Presbyterian Church of Wilmington has announced that the parents will swing into line and join the National Congress of Mothers in its great work for child welfare. It has already

held parents' meetings for two years, and now will definitely take up a course in child study. The Congress accords a warm welcome to this new member, for it brings a strong force into the Congress to have the intelligent support and co-operation of the churches. The highest welfare of the child can only be attained by his spiritual development, and to secure that is surely the definite duty of every church.

GEORGIA

THE CHILD STUDY CIRCLE

It marks distinct progress in any line of work when the people engaged in it realize that they are falling short of their possibilities and giving to the world a product of less excellence and effectiveness than their better preparation and equipment might develop.

It has not always been an acknowledged fact that the rearing of a child is a work requiring more knowledge and understanding than can be furnished by the ever ready intention of womankind or even from the haphazard ideas to be culled from the experiences of older friends, mothers and grandmothers. A young mother said wistfully and truly:

"The first baby seems nearly always a little experiment." An older mother said: "When Charlie was born, I was beginning to know something about babies." Happy Charlie, who came fifth in the family!

Certainly it is true to-day, as never before, that women are seeing that the rearing of their children needs to be the chief study and concern of the race of mothers. They are listening where words are spoken, they are reading what books are written, they are turning to whatever help is offered them in the understanding of the many phases through which children must pass, and the countless problems that confront every parent.

There is an organization in Atlanta which is trying to systematically study which all earnest mothers realize to some extent the need of doing. The Child Study Circle was organized two years ago and will take up its work again in the early fall. It has for its sole aim the study of child life in all its phases for the single purpose of understanding the principles that underlie the development of the child, and of applying them to the ordinary, everyday problems of training and developing in the right way and to the fullest efficiency the bodies, minds and hearts of the children in our keeping.

The work of the Child Study Circle is outlined and planned in detail in a course of study sent out from the University of Chicago. It is comprehensive and scientific, practical and interesting. In its scope is included whatever touches the nature or interests of childhood and every

mother who has come to the meetings of the Circle has found much interest in the study and profit in the discussions.

Mrs. W. C. LOVETT,
President Child Study Class.
Atlanta, Ga.

IDAHO

Mrs. J. R. Dickie has been elected president of the Boise Council of Parents' Circles. A new circle has been organized at Brookside. Mrs. Emma Ellis is the president and meetings will be held fortnightly.

The Star, Idaho, Parent-Teachers' Circle met for the first meeting of the school year September 22. There was rendered an excellent programme, consisting of papers, addresses, music, and round table discussion.

Realizing that attractive school surroundings are a great aid in the proper education and development of the child, the circle decided to continue the work begun during vacation, of improving the school grounds. Plans for parking, decorating, and arranging were discussed, and a day appointed on which the patrons and friends of the school should be invited to meet at the school-house for work upon the grounds; luncheon to be served at noon by the ladies of the circle.

The circle gave a Hallowe'en entertainment to assist in properly fitting up the school gymnasium.

On the whole the outlook for the circle is encouraging, the teachers entering heartily into the spirit of the work, and new names being added to the roll of members at each meeting.

ILLINOIS

One of the most practical and altruistic movements in Illinois in the education of mothers is that of the Chicago Kindergarten College, which announces a three months' course of free lectures on maternal efficiency, to be given in the college hall, 1200 Michigan Avenue, on successive Friday afternoons from 3 to 5, beginning November 10, 1911.

First hour, 3 to 4, "Psychological Study of the Child" or "Practical Pedagogics for the Home." Instructors from the college faculty under the supervision of Elizabeth Harrison.

Second hour, 4 to 5, "Physiological Study of the Child" or "Practical Hygiene of the Home." Instructors, two eminent physicians and a nurse under the supervision of Dr. Caroline Hedger.

The December meeting of the Illinois Congress of Mothers with Board of Managers will be held at the Chicago Woman's Club, the hostess being Mrs. A. W. Holmes.

It has been found necessary to establish limitations in connection with the grant-

ing of pensions in Cook County, including Chicago:

Mothers seeking aid from the county for the support of their children under the new pension act will be forced to demonstrate their capability as household managers, according to the plan of Henry Neil, who fathered the new law.

As a precaution against unworthy mothers being supported under the pension act a system is being planned by which all applicants must qualify in regular monthly examinations. Representatives of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, the Chicago Health Department and the Bureau of Associated Charities are now engaged in drawing up a set of questions for this purpose.

Prospective pensioners will be tested out as to their ability to provide food, shelter and clothing for children in an economical manner.

LOUISIANA

The Mothers' Union, of Shreveport, La., has issued a very pretty year-book for 1911 and 1912. "What We Need," a poem by the president, Mrs. Ives, is a strong appeal to women to live up to their highest nature.

The Mothers' Union joined the Mothers' Congress in 1904. It established the Shreveport Training School for poor children, organized the Louisiana branch of the Mothers' Congress and has worked earnestly against white slave traffic. The meetings of the Union are held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall.

The programme for the year has been largely made up from the loan papers on child nurture supplied by the National Congress of Mothers. These papers will be read by different members of the Union. The Kindergarten Department holds meetings in Central School and the Domestic Science Department in the High School. Five lessons are to be given on Food Properties and Hygiene—Soups, Meats and Fish, Bread and Pastry.

MASSACHUSETTS

Whenever the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE came to our home, I turned to the State News to read what Massachusetts had contributed. I was surprised as well as ashamed to find Massachusetts items seldom appearing. Imagine my deeper chagrin to learn, at our last quarterly Board of Managers meeting, that I, as chairman of Press and Publicity Committee of Massachusetts, had been neglecting my duty regarding the magazine news from our state. I confess my negligence and humbly ask your pardon. Perhaps my mistake, now acknowledged, may help some of the recently appointed chairmen in the different

states to write to headquarters immediately to learn what their new duties are.

Massachusetts is very much in earnest in the work of the Mothers' Congress. If you had been present at our last Board of Managers meeting you would have been deeply impressed with our enthusiasm. Eighteen out of twenty-two members of the Board, coming from different parts of the state, were present at our meeting.

The chairmen of the departments gave their reports. Mrs. U. H. Simonds, of Bedford, chairman of Education, gave some valuable information regarding her own personal observations. As a member of the School Board, she gave an idea of the school curriculum as used in five different states. She said, "It is no wonder our children are not thoroughly grounded in the essentials, when they are crowded beyond all reasonable limits with material that was originally put in the schools to be used only as supplementary work, but which has grown to usurp the time which should legitimately be occupied by essential studies."

Our second annual convention is to be held in Lynn, February 14-17, 1912. The committee for arrangements of this convention are Mrs. Earl William Smith, West Somerville; Mrs. F. O. Harrell, Waltham; Miss Julia Callahan and Miss Bessie Ham, Lynn.

Mrs. Walter Leroy Smith, of Malden, is to continue her work as state organizer, with Mrs. S. W. Whitten, Holyoke, Mrs. L.R. Hoovey, Haverhill, and Mrs. Earl William Smith, West Somerville, as her assistants.

The following chairmen for work in the state were appointed: Education, Mrs. W. H. Simonds, Bedford; Literature, Mrs. I. H. Greene, Boston; Mothers' Literature, Mrs. M. P. Higgins, Worcester; Child Welfare, Miss M. A. Leamy, Gardner; Child Labor, Mrs. Emma Kirschner, Malden; Finance, Mrs. D. T. Beaton, Manchester; Home Economics, Mrs. B. M. Allen, Andover; Membership, Mrs. W. L. Smith, Malden; Legislation, Mrs. Robert Park, Wollaston; Housing Committee, Mrs. Robert Park, Wollaston; Good Roads and School Improvement, Mrs. J. S. Whittemore, Leicester; Play-grounds, Mrs. F. O. Harrell, Waltham; Press and Publicity, Mrs. E. W. Smith, West Somerville.

The systematic arrangement of the Mothers' Congress work in Haverhill deserves attention. From each Parent-Teacher Association in the city one or two members are appointed to form an Executive Board for the city. This Board plans work, arranges programme, does extension work, offers suggestions, etc., for the several Parent-Teachers' Associations in Haverhill. Consequently at short notice new plans for work can be sent to the members of the Mothers' Congress.

IVANETTA WARREN SMITH,
Chairman of Press and Publicity Com.

MISSISSIPPI

Report of work of the Mothers' Circle of Natchez Public School Kindergarten for year ending October, 1911: Number of mothers on roll, 40. Regular meetings held during the year, 8. Call meetings, 3.

A very pleasant and profitable year indeed has been the one just passed. Fine attendances and interesting programmes have been the order of the Circle. A study of kindergarten work from the very beginning was mapped out, and the investigation and information gained will not soon be forgotten by the Circle.

Four very instructive lectures were delivered by our young medical doctors and dentists on the importance of the care of the "Eye, Nose and Throat," "Dental Hygiene," and "Sex Education;" also an interesting and instructive lecture from Director Routzgen of the American Tuberculosis Exhibition, on "The Child and the Danger of Contamination of Germs," also setting forth the value of the individual drinking cups, which have since been put in practice. It is needless to dwell upon the delightful lecture and reception the Circle gave the citizens of Natchez in securing the visit of Mrs. Frederic Schoff, of Philadelphia, who came to us in January and captured everyone by her charming personality.

The Circle contributed great pleasure to the children in assisting the teachers with a Christmas tree at each of the schools, and having a combined picnic and May Day festival.

(Mrs.) WM. LYLE, President.

(Mrs.) C. M. SHAW, Sec. and Treas.

Columbus, Miss., has three Parent-Teacher Associations, one at the college, composed of patrons and teachers of the practice school. This organization is one year old, and has a membership of thirty. The following are officers: Miss A. I. Faust, president; Mrs. Jno. R. Laws, vice-president; Miss Sadie Chiles, secretary; Mrs. Kaufman, treasurer.

The Home and School League of Franklin Academy was organized this session with a membership of thirty-five. This association is doing excellent work, and we hope that it will join the Mississippi Congress.

The Parent-Teachers' Association of Barrow Memorial School was organized this session with a membership of twenty-four. The officers are as follows: Mrs. Warren Cox, president; Mrs. Frank Davis, vice-president; Miss Tillie Webb, secretary; Mrs. Alexander, treasurer.

This association meets twice a month. Many members of each organization subscribe to CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE. Loan papers from the National Congress are often used on programmes of all meetings. The chief aim of each association

is to bring the home and school together for the welfare of the child.

(Miss) MARY EMILY CONNELL,
Chairman State Membership Com.

MONTANA

The Mothers' Club of Missoula is one of the first mothers' organizations formed in Montana. There are forty members, all deeply interested and planning to extend the organization of mothers into every school in Missoula.

The interest in child welfare has greatly increased, and the better opportunities for children in Montana will receive an impetus from the earnest thought of the mothers who are wise enough to band together for child-study to promote child welfare.

The National Congress of Mothers cordially welcomes the Mothers' Club of Missoula into membership and looks to it for help in promoting the aims and purposes of the National Congress of Mothers. Mrs. Charles F. Miller, the president, and Miss Mary Watts, the principal of the school, have been so deeply interested themselves that they have inspired others with a realization of the benefit to be derived from a Mothers' Club.

NEW JERSEY

The eleventh annual meeting was held in Plainfield, November 10-11, in the splendid High School building. Each session drew large and enthusiastic audiences, and the excellent programme sustained the interest until the last moment. The Association of Teachers of Plainfield and North Plainfield paid the expenses of one of the speakers, and their hearty co-operation was a strong feature of the conference. At the opening meeting on Friday afternoon, the president of the Plainfield Mothers' Association extended a most cordial welcome to the Congress, and was seconded by Mr. Henry M. Maxson, City Superintendent of Schools, who spoke of the value of organized work among mothers for the benefit of both home and school. In her response, the state president, Mrs. Augustus H. Reeve, said that Constructive Co-operation, or Co-operative Construction, would be the keynote of this year's meeting, and in illustration read a striking little poem, "Fence, or Ambulance," from the Vineland Training School. The president of the National Congress of Mothers, Mrs. Frederic Schoff, brought the greeting of the larger organization and made a beautiful plea for the true spirit of motherhood in all child-welfare work. The valuable paper by Dr. John W. Carr, superintendent of schools in Bayonne, was received with keen interest and approval, and Dr. Charles A. Eaton, of New York, stirred the audience

profoundly by his eloquent appeal for simplicity and higher ideals in life for children and for the home.

A delightful reception and tea for officers, delegates and visitors was held in the school library, when Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, the guest of honor, and a member of the New Jersey Congress, charmed every one by her gracious cordiality. The evening session, under the auspices of the teachers of Plainfield and North Plainfield and the Congress of Mothers, was full of inspiration. The Mayor, Hon. G. W. V. Moy, gave a brief address of welcome, and was followed by Mr. E. R. Johnston, Superintendent of the Vineland Training School, who showed how the defective child may be a help as well as hindrance to progress, and made his hearers feel deeply their responsibility in the solution of this great problem. Dr. J. George Becht, Principal of the State Normal School at Clarion, Pa., then made a strong appeal for the "Rational Treatment of Children," and a brief discussion brought the meeting to a close.

At the business session Saturday morning, four new committees, on Juvenile Court, Child Hygiene, Parent-Teacher Associations, and Rural Child-Welfare, reported active work done during the past year, and the Congress welcomed nine new clubs, two from Plainfield, and one each from Vineland, Salem, Maple Shade, Riverside, Camden, Orange and Beverly. Three fifteen-minute addresses on practical lines of work were given by Mrs. C. B. Alexander, president of the State Board of Children's Guardians; Mrs. G. W. B. Cushing, president of the Consumers' League and chairman of the New Jersey Child-Labor Committee; and Dr. T. N. Gray, secretary of the State Sanitary Association's Committee on Social Hygiene, and it is hoped that definite results will follow the valuable suggestions given to the delegates.

Miss Mary Garrett opened the afternoon session by a most interesting paper on "The Training of Deaf Children in Speech Before They Are of School Age," and hearty applause greeted the successful demonstration of her remarkable work by three teachers, with six pupils ranging from four to eighteen years of age, two at present under instruction in her school, three graduates now taking the regular course in New Jersey Public Schools, and one employed in active business. Mr. Thomas D. Sensor, of the State Department of Education, then gave a fine exposition of "Vocational Activities as Developed by the Wirt System," and the Congress adjourned to meet in Riverton in 1912.

During the sessions there was an interesting book exhibit in the school library, and the Child-Labor Exhibit of the National Committee of New York attracted

much thoughtful attention. New Jersey looks forward to a year of united, earnest work, and feels, as the president said in closing her report, that although "failures we must meet, and blunders we have made and doubtless shall make again, in the end we must succeed, because we have 'hitched our wagon to a star,' the star that still shines over a little child."

NEW MEXICO

Mrs. R. P. Donahoo, organizer for New Mexico, has had a very attractive card printed, giving the aims and purposes of the Congress of Mothers, and telling when the meetings of the Tucumcari Mothers' Club are held.

This card has been widely distributed throughout the state, and cannot fail to gain friends for the Congress. The plan might well be followed in other states.

NEW YORK

The Albany Mothers' Club has been honored by the New York State Teachers' Association, which is to meet in Albany November 27, 28, 29. George P. Bristow, president of the association, has invited the local club to be the guest of the state teachers at a meeting in the chapel of the Albany High School, the afternoon of November 28. Mr. Bristow will give an address on "The Home Support of the School," and a discussion will follow, to be led by Mrs. John D. Whish, and entered into by Miss Van Der Wart, Mrs. Samuel C. Wooster, Mrs. William Lenox and Mrs. Lewis Cass, members of the Mothers' Club.

OHIO

Report of the eighth annual conference of the Ohio Congress of Mothers and Teachers:

The eighth annual conference of the Ohio Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Associations, which was held in Cleveland November 1-3, was indeed a very interesting and successful one. The programme committee certainly deserve a great amount of credit, as every session was bubbling over with good thoughts, ideas and music. The meetings opened at Brownell School auditorium, Wednesday evening, the decorations being palms and large American flags. After all singing "America," the invocation was given by Dr. A. B. Mildman. Brief addresses of welcome followed, by various persons representing our city, schools, churches, and federation of women's clubs, Cleveland Congress of Mothers, and were ably responded to by our state president, Mrs. E. S. Wright, of Conneaut, Ohio. Professor Werner, of Ashtabula, was the speaker of the evening and received a

warm welcome; his subject, "The Hand of Baldassarre," was extremely interesting, and no doubt but that the thought he wished to convey to his listeners, "We shall reap what we sow," was generally accepted. A fine reception tendered the delegates and friends by the Cleveland Congress of Mothers was attended by several hundred people. An orchestra of young schoolboys furnished the music.

Thursday morning session was given over to hearing of reports from various clubs, and some very good ideas were exchanged. Mrs. J. Rankin, chairman of the Parent-Teachers' work in Ohio, gave a very encouraging report, and no doubt but that another year will show great results along that line.

We all adjourned to Technical High School for lunch, after which we were divided into groups and shown through that beautiful school of which Cleveland is most proud. At the afternoon session Superintendent Elson, of our Cleveland schools, told of the backward children and what was being done for them. Mrs. I. N. Noland gave a history of the growth of our Cleveland Congress.

Thursday evening found us back at Brownell School auditorium with Hon. J. A. Leonard, of Mansfield Reformatory, and Judge Willis Vickery, of Cleveland, as the speakers. Mr. Leonard's subject, "Why These Broken Vessels?" dealt with the question of the best means of bettering conditions of the boys who err. Fifty per cent. of the cases at Mansfield were boys from homes broken up by divorce. The judge's ideas coincided with Mr. Leonard's, and he expressed himself by saying "what we needed most was a national marriage and divorce law." The trouble lies not in the fact that divorces are easy to get, but that marriages were entered into with such thoughtless ease.

Friday morning Mrs. Wright gave a full interesting report of the National Congress held in Washington. The revised constitution and by-laws were then read and adopted, the most important change being that our officers hold office *two* years instead of one, as formerly. The election of officers then took place, our president being re-elected unanimously, and she was presented with a large bouquet of carnations in appreciation of the good work she has done the past year.

We all adjourned to the Y. W. C. A., where a nice lunch was awaiting us, the delegates being the guests of the Cleveland Congress. The largest audience present at any session was on Friday afternoon, when the subjects presented concerned women and their children most. Miss E. A. Hart was unable to be present, so Mrs. C. P. Wickham read Miss Hart's paper, "What the State Owes the Homeless Child." Mrs. A. F. Westgate's subject, "The Sanctity of the Home and How We

Will Preserve It," was delivered in a most interesting manner, followed by Mrs. Isabelle Alexander, whose heart and soul are wrapt up in the welfare of our young girls. She is the founder of the Florence Crittenden Home, lately opened in Cleveland. Mrs. Alexander touched upon many facts and conditions existing in Cleveland which were unknown to many mothers present. "Sex Hygiene" was the subject of Miss Louise Klein Miller, supervisor of school gardens in the Cleveland schools. She made an earnest plea for the foundation of classes in sexology in our public schools throughout the state. "The serious question at present is, who is to do this teaching?" said Miss Miller; "personally I think the scientific work could and should be done by the teacher, but when the life processes are to be related to the individual girl or boy, it should be done by the mother in a quiet, sympathetic way." At the closing session Friday evening Mrs. R. B. Irwin presented some of the conditions of the blind in our city. Hon. F. A. Derthick, of Mantua, Ohio, talked on the subject of good roads in rural districts, a topic he is most interested in. He urged that we join with the "Good Roads Committee" of our state and petition for better roads in the rural districts, so as to give the children an opportunity of attending schools all winter. Resolutions were then read and adopted, the Congress putting itself on record as being opposed to fraternities in high schools, abolishing the public drinking cup, of having legislation passed that would give widowed mothers the money now expended by the state for maintaining homes to which the children are sent when the mother is unable to support them; as favoring a national marriage and divorce law, endorsing the attitude taken in regard to the employment of midwives, and co-operation with good roads committee for better roads throughout the state. At all sessions we had the pleasure of listening to excellent vocal and instrumental music.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. E. S. Wright, Conneaut, O.; honorary presidents, Mrs. J. A. Jeffrey, Columbus, Mrs. Helen R. Wells, Akron; first vice-president, Mrs. L. E. Eymann, Lancaster; second vice-president, Mrs. I. N. Noland, Cleveland; third vice-president, Mrs. A. Estabrook, Cleveland; vice-president-at-large, Mrs. J. Rankin, Cleveland; recording secretary, Mrs. R. E. Miller, Cleveland; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. D. Palmer, Cleveland; treasurer, Mrs. E. Haserodt, Cleveland; auditor, Mrs. C. W. McCleery, Lancaster; executive committee, Mrs. J. A. Smith, Mrs. J. W. Speed, Mrs. A. W. Marshall, Cleveland.

(Mrs.) J. A. SMITH,
Press Correspondent.

OREGON

On November 1 before thousands of spectators at the Armory the first Child-Welfare Exhibit ever held west of Chicago was formally opened by George L. Baker, representing Mayor Rushlight. The exhibit was under the auspices of the Oregon Congress of Mothers' and Parent-Teachers' Association of Oregon. In addition to the exhibit, sessions of the Mothers' Congress were held, at which subjects pertaining to the welfare of children were treated in addresses and papers, followed by discussions. These meetings were open to all.

In the afternoon the work of the various institutions and societies represented in the exhibit were demonstrated for the benefit of visitors. The booth maintained by the Public Library held a story-hour

Dr. L. W. Hyde spoke on "Sex Hygiene." He declared that conditions prevailing in the schools throughout the country made it necessary to inaugurate a movement to protect children from grave dangers. All kinds of people, all classes of people, he declared, were affected as a result of errors.

Just how far it would be wise to go in placing the study of sex hygiene in the city's educational system, was the question which held the attention of the members of the Oregon Congress of Mothers for some time in this morning's session of the annual convention at the Armory. Without dissent the mothers acknowledged the utter lack of proper education along this line in the past, and some feared taking too advanced ground for the immediate future.



at 4 o'clock, at which were shown the methods used by the modern library in developing an appreciation of books.

A feature of the afternoon was the physical drill by several hundred pupils of the public schools under the direction of Professor Krohn.

The proper care of milk was demonstrated by the Board of Health. The work of the manual training and sewing classes of the public schools was also shown by pupils.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Alderman paid a tribute to the Congress of Mothers for their efforts in developing such an excellent exhibit. He referred to the valuable assistance the department of education has received from this organization in numerous reforms which have been made.

As a means for laying a foundation for eventually placing the study of sex hygiene in the regular curriculum of the public school, a resolution was passed favoring giving special instructions to the parents first and let the parents teach the children. The resolution indorsed the movement, favored by the Young Men's Christian Association, of calling together parents of school children to receive instruction from competent teachers on this subject.

A resolution was adopted favoring a department of volunteer probation officers. Miss Butler, probation officer, had told the delegates the preceding day that the great need of those who were trying to help the wayward boys and girls was for more officers. This suggestion was taken up and worked out along the line of mothers doing volunteer work, receiv-

ing from the juvenile court all the authority of regular probation officers.

The Congress passed resolutions favoring making moving pictures a constituent part of the educational course, and that the individual circles should work to bring it about.

They favored electing a mother as member of the school board, and favored the use of the school buildings as neighborhood centres.

A resolution was adopted expressing the thanks of the congress to the societies, firms and individuals who had aided in making the congress and the child welfare exhibit a success.

The Oregon Congress of Mothers held that needy widows with children deserve support from the state and declared the State Legislature ought to pass a law, providing for them. Mrs. Robert H. Tate, president, appointed a committee of five to have a bill drafted providing that the state furnish aid to widows having children under 14 years old. This bill will be presented to the Legislature at its next session.

This instance of need in Portland was given after the assertion had been made that conditions of poverty do not exist in Portland, that they prevail only in New York, Chicago and other large eastern cities. The story of the destitution of the Dick family, an East Side case, was read to the members to show conditions as they are, and \$12 collected immediately was sent direct to Mrs. Dick through Mrs. A. F. Flegel, of the Highland Circle of the Oregon Congress of Mothers. Mrs. Flegel has taken it upon herself to visit the family on behalf of the Mothers' Congress, to see that the family is cared for from time to time.

The mothers were unanimous in saying wife-desertion ought to be a felony. A bill to this effect was killed in the last Legislature, but one passed making it a felony to desert cattle on the range, it was told.

Mrs. R. H. Tate, state president, spoke on problems of the Parent-Teacher Circles. Mrs. J. D. Sullivan spoke on "Where Shall We Find the Best Aids to Child Study?" Mrs. E. H. Ingham dwelt upon the benefit derived from keeping in close touch with the state and national work of the Congress of Mothers. Reports of officers were read, showing the Congress to be flourishing.

"First Aid to the Injured" was the subject of a paper by Dr. Elsie D. Patton. Dr. Patton offered a number of suggestions as to the care of victims in cases of drowning, poisoning and sunstroke. At the close of her lecture Dr. Patton demonstrated the proper adjustment of bandages for various kinds of wounds, sprains and broken bones.

W. H. Lindsay, leader of the Boy

Scouts, read a paper on the aims and purposes of that organization. Mr. Lindsay said that the boy scouts are not a military, but a peace movement, a system of boy education. He considered it was a movement to care for boys at a time when their energies need wise direction in useful activities. It was intended, he said, to offset the evils of city life.

"Scouting," said Mr. Lindsay, "is a protest against the hampering effects of city life that tend to make boys helpless and soft, too much being done for them. Scouting calls for the woods and life in the open and meets a ready response in the life of every normal boy. It acquaints him with life and the practical things of life. It develops a supple body and firm muscles as well as a rugged, self-reliant individuality."

The boys' gymnasium classes of the Young Men's Christian Association gave an exhibition of tumbling and pyramid work. There was an exhibition of folk dancing and games as given in the Portland playgrounds, under the direction of the Misses Taylor.

Mrs. G. W. Evans, in discussing playgrounds, warmly commended Mayor Rushlight for securing an option for the city on Ross Island, with the idea of the city buying the island for a pleasure park. She cited many eastern cities that have pleasure parks at the water's edge and said she thought Portland, with its rapid growth, could well afford to secure this site for the children and grown people of this city.

The question of using fireless cookers in rural schools, where the pupils take their lunches, was discussed and speakers advocated that they be used so the pupils might have warm lunches.

Miss Lillian Tingle said in one of the city schools, where it was not handy for the teachers to secure satisfactory lunches outside, they used a fireless cooker and enjoyed a warm lunch each day.

Mrs. Thomas Hawkes gave an interesting outline of the publicity work being done for the benefit of the Mothers' Congress, and called attention to the regular department maintained in THE JOURNAL.

Mrs. I. N. Walker gave an address on literature. Mrs. W. S. Brande was enthusiastically applauded at the close of her address on "How Can We Make Our Parent-Teacher Circles Practical?" Mrs. Winthrop Hammond read a paper describing the work and splendid results achieved by a neighborhood circle at Worcester, Mass. She was applauded when she said that in 10 years of time 21 babies were born in the circle and in the homes of the 30 members there were 104 children.

A new department was added to the work of the Oregon Congress of Mothers. This will be the work of finding good

parental homes for orphaned and deserted babies.

Speakers pointed out the pity of having to send babies to institutions where they are entirely away from parental love, to be reared. They thought that efforts should be made to place as many of them as possible in good homes.

A resolution was passed by the delegates making this work a regular department of the work of the Mothers' Congress, and a special committee will be appointed to conduct it. One of the mothers announced that since the convention opened she had received an inquiry from a family that wanted a baby girl.

The officers of the Congress of Mothers under whose auspices the exhibit will be given are:

President, Mrs. Robert H. Tate; vice-presidents, Mrs. W. J. Hawkins, Mrs. C. F. Clarke, Mrs. W. R. Litzenberg, Portland; Mrs. A. N. Bush, Salem; Mrs. C. M. Collier, Eugene; Dr. Belle Ferguson, The Dalles; Mrs. C. J. Smith, Pendleton; Mrs. Charles Hines, Forest Grove. Mrs. William Hayhurst, corresponding secretary, 170 E. 38th Street; Mrs. W. S. Brande, recording secretary, 1108 E. Alder Street; Mrs. Edward L. Hart, treasurer, 844 Garfield Avenue; Mrs. J. D. Sullivan, librarian, 2050 E. Stark Street; Mrs. E. N. Welch, auditor, 834 Michigan Avenue. Mrs. Robert C. French was chairman of Exhibit Committee. Mrs. George W. McMath was chairman of convention committee.

PENNSYLVANIA

At the regular monthly meeting in October the Executive Board discussed and acted upon many important matters, reports of which are embodied in the circular-letter which goes monthly from the president to each association in membership. By this means the individual members are kept informed, through the reading of these letters, with the working of their Board.

Among the important matters acted upon, all of which space does not permit the giving here, was the forming of an emergency committee, to act immediately on its own initiative in case of urgent need or distress. This committee's need and use developed at the time of the Austin disaster. Then Mrs. Frederic Schoff and Mrs. George K. Johnson, after hurried conference, sent a call through the treasurer of Philadelphia for aid for the sufferers. Response was immediate and generous, very quickly large packing-cases of needfuls were on the way to Austin. The valiant, timely work done in the name of the Congress caused the Board to vote for a standing emergency committee, naming Mrs. Schoff and Mrs. Johnson as its members.

In recognition of the Congress' able influence, Rev. Wm. Q. Bennett sent a request that, during the next term of Legislature, a Child-Welfare conference shall be held in Harrisburg, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Congress of Mothers. This recommendation was adopted by the Board. Also there came word from Wilkes-Barre that over five hundred were awaiting membership cards.

Reports of Miss Cynthia Dozier's tour of the state are most gratifying. Not only enthusiasm but intense and understanding appreciation, a comprehension of the work is growing, on which foundation it is being adopted. Among the many places visited are Jersey Shore, Lock Haven, Titusville. At the latter place in the first meeting over one hundred new names were subscribed.

Swarthmore has been fortunate the past month in having at their meetings of the Mothers' Section Mrs. George K. Johnson, whose message was welcomed, and at the Home and School Association Mrs. Frank De Garmo, with illustrated lecture on "Good Roads and Rural Welfare." No association in the body should miss having Mrs. De Garmo with these convincing pictures and the fascinating and wholly practical talks accompanying them.

And here it seems well to seize the opportunity to add this thought to Mrs. De Garmo's many splendid ones. A few in commenting on the need for good roads said, "Yes, but see what they cost; we can't afford them." But is it not a very truth that we are paying for them daily in the high cost of living brought about chiefly by short supply for the greater demand? If good roads will keep to the soil those already there then we should have them, for the very selfish desire, to reduce our great living cost. Mrs. De Garmo will tell you all the other reasons.

The two-day bazaar given in Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia, November 3-4, was a success—in just what degree is not wholly known at this writing.

The restaurant presided over by Mrs. Anna B. Scott fed over two hundred at each luncheon hour, many at dinner, while in the afternoon, tea was served from four to six o'clock. This was rendered a very attractive feature because the young daughters acted as aids, lending their grace, beauty and spontaneous gaiety to the occasion.

The Magic-Well in the wood and the Fish Pond attracted the children, for whom special entertainment was given on Saturday afternoon. Milton's donation was divided among the other tables.

The flower booth, presided over by Mrs. Blood, of the Frankford Mothers' Club, gave beauty to the general make-up. Next it was the cake table, where the Philadelphia Mothers' Club was in charge under direction of Mrs. Wheeler. Deli-

icious home-made candies on a gaily decorated stand were sold by the Heston School Association, whose leaders were in charge. Mrs. Howard Lippincott's literature table, where booklets, artistic calendars, post cards, etchings and mottoes were for sale, was well flanked by Child-Welfare magazines and Congress literature. The Lansdowne Mothers' Council displayed all sorts of linens, substantial, decorative, useful. Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Jackson and valiant assistants were for the time busy sales-people. Across the way from them the Mothers-in-Council of Germantown told the whole apron story, for at their table devoted to these, every kind appeared from the dainty bit of lace and ribbon to the voluminous gingham thing so great friend to the housewife during "office hours." Cynwyd-Bala Schools sold lemonade, and near them Swarthmore Association sold general fancy work. Everything on the table was the work of interested members. For weeks these ladies gave a series of "thimble-teas." The town was distracted, and hostesses arranged lists so that all might be included at the gathering, where the work was actually done in company of earnest workers. Congress work, aims and purposes were discussed, and it has been hinted that there is a strong desire among many to continue these pleasant meetings as a new branch of the Congress, as just a cosy, home-gathering Mothers' Meeting.

The Year-Book Committee is busy and soon the fruits of their work will be distributed; then an exact committee list for the coming year will be in the hands of each association.

Any news forwarded the chairman will be added to State Notes.

(Mrs. Chas.) ELLEN FOSTER STONE,
Publicity Chairman, Swarthmore, Pa.

RHODE ISLAND

The winter's work of the Rhode Island Branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Association has begun under auspicious circumstances.

Two meetings having been held, one a board meeting at which there was a large attendance of interested workers, and a meeting of the executive committee, at which chairmen of committees were present. The general object of the meeting was to discuss plans for the winter and to learn from the chairmen of committees what might be expected of their departments.

The Book List for Mothers Committee reported through Mrs. Ella Pierce. The object of this committee has been to obtain and distribute material on house economics that could be had at practically no cost, such as Government reports, advertising booklets and such publi-

cations as are issued by the committee of one hundred on national health. The work of this committee is to be merged with the work of the home economics committee, of which Mrs. Alfred Lustig is chairman. The work of the child hygiene committee, carried on under the leadership of Mrs. Jay Perkins, will be continued by another chairman, as Mrs. Perkins now fills the office of corresponding secretary.

Mrs. Daniel Hayden, state organizer, spoke enthusiastically of the response met with in organizing clubs throughout the city. With Frank E. Duffee to assist this work will be continued, ever broadening its scope beyond our own municipal lines.

It was unanimously voted that the recording secretary, Mrs. D. K. Bartlett, be instructed to forward a letter to Superintendent Condon expressing appreciation for the opening of the Home School of Industries at the Willard Avenue School.

Data for the new year book has been compiled and the books will soon be ready. Reports from committees and affiliated clubs showed active work being done and a promising outlook for the coming year.

The R. I. Congress of Mothers will hold an open meeting Monday, December 11, at Y. W. C. A. Mrs. Kinghorn, the president, will give an address on "The National Child Welfare Conference," held at Washington in the spring. It is expected that Mrs. David O. Meara, vice-president of the National Association, will be a speaker.

Ten new circles have been formed.
(Mrs. Louis L.) ANNIE F. ANGELL,
Press Committee.

TENNESSEE

The Parent-Teacher Association of the Lawler High School, Memphis, has been organized recently as a member of the Mothers' Congress. The annual meeting of the Tennessee Branch of the Congress will be held in Memphis in January, and will stimulate the organization of other circles.

At Nashville one day at the State Fair was given to mothers. Among the interesting addresses was one by Mrs. Rutledge Smith on "The Benefit of a Parents' Association." We quote therefrom:

"Oh, mothers, what a grand trust is motherhood—a human soul weighted with a load of diverse tendencies, is put into the charge of a mother, she embarks as captain of the little vessel and with no experience of her own she undertakes to steer through the stormy waters of life, over the breakers, into a harbor of safety—is it any wonder that too often these little vessels fall into the hands of worldly pirates or that they run adrift on unsuspected shoals! God above has given to

the motherhood of all an instinct of protection, yet this instinct is often misunderstood and neglected, and when the experience of another might have aided her she fails for the want of the knowledge of the same experience. Anxious and ambitious, the mother builds for her baby boy as he lies upon her breast a beautiful future. She dreams of a lovely childhood, when the little fellow happy in innocence and health is as sunshine unto her home, and each day is to be as a round of strength and beauty to make a ladder of ideal manhood. She dreams of school days when the boy comes home with happy words of how he led his class and how his teachers had given words of commendation and love, all to be the rounding of that great ladder when as a father in his own home, he stands as a citizen of strength and greatness—a blessing unto his own people and the mother who bore him. Too often these are dreams with horrid awakenings—the childhood days are days of pain and sickness, due to an inexperienced mother with no words of wisdom from others, the school days are days of stupidity and horror, for the delicate body drugged with 'dope' has made a weak mind, and the ladder, which was to have been builded for ideal citizenship, is weak and unstable and is unfit for the weight which life may put upon it.

"A flower garden we plant this year and experience we gain helps for a more beautiful garden next year—not so in the garden of motherhood, with little Mary of this summer we cannot hope to build for future summers. Rare plant of childhood, precious in your frailty, how tenderly we watched, what a faithful gardener must that mother be! How the weeds may grow to choke out your beauty, and yet the garden of childhood is the most neglected of all gardens. Mothers (of Tennessee), awaken! you who have watched your flowers grow and seen the weeds that were ready to kill the beauty of their growth; go to these meetings of the 'Parent-Teachers' Association,' and tell to the young and inexperienced gardener your troubles and anxieties and how you might have given a better growth to your garden had you known of the weeds that suck the life of the little plants. Beautiful and grand trust of motherhood, what a bond it should be to make all the world akin! How dear and sincere is the wish of you here to-day that time could turn back in its flight and you become a child once more, not for the happiness and innocence of childhood, but that you might give to that mother now gone the love and sympathy, which, as a mother yourself, you have learned she needed.

"Precious mother-love, the most precious jewel in all life's diadem! brilliant as the diamond in its intensity, soft as the pearl in its sympathy, rich as the ruby

in its depth, and as the truest of gold, withstanding the most fiery furnace.

"Mothers, if you have not already organized a Parent-Teachers' Association, do so at once and become as a mighty 'trust' to fight the evil that besets the little ones. A hearty co-operation of mothers and teachers means better work in the school, better morals in the children of a town, and a better uplift in its citizenship.

"As you sow so shall you reap—as the twig is bent so is the tree inclined."

TEXAS

THE MOTHERS' CONGRESS IN TEXAS

The work of the Mothers' Congress which is holding its annual convention in Waco deals largely with giving the proper environment to the child; providing a play room and sanitary surroundings and affording an opportunity to reach manhood or womanhood of a sort that is valuable to society. The work is of a nature that no one with proper ideals of the future of this country can fail to indorse and commend, and too much cannot be said in praise of the efforts these noble women are putting forth.

It was only a few years ago that people began to be aware of the necessity for such things as playgrounds, gymnasiums and fresh air, for children. They failed to take into account the fact that the cities are becoming congested and crowded, that taller buildings are shutting out God's air and light. They did not realize, perhaps, that good citizens cannot be reared in the slums of the cities, neither can they spring from the children whose days are spent in the cotton fields—for we believe there are slums in the country as well as in the city, using the word in its broad sense.

But now we are more awake and alert. Though organizations have been active a comparatively short time, the good results are already in evidence. Chicago recently spent more than one million dollars for one acre of land for a playground. The citizenship everywhere is coming to realize that in a large measure the very life of this nation depends upon the boys and girls that they are trying to help. Millions of dollars are being spent, most of it, alas, to correct the mistakes of the past. We have had something to say, from time to time, of the necessity for looking to the future along these lines in Waco. Perhaps our readers can glean a lesson from the work the Congress is doing.

Aren't there enough barriers between the child and the good citizen, in this day of commercialism, without giving the helpless infant the additional handicap of unsanitary surroundings, semi-darkness and lack of recreation? Aren't there enough evil influences at work that we

can't reach, without our sitting by and not trying to combat those that we can reach? The more we consider the problems of the present day, the more opportunities there seem to be for good work by such organizations as that now in convention in Waco. We have discussed but one phase of work of the Congress; there are many others. They deal with the home, the church and the school, and through these agencies they go into every feature of our civilization.

There is one thing that occurs in connection with this Congress, and we ask the question in all seriousness: Why can't the fathers become a working, pulling factor in such work as the mothers have undertaken? Properly organized, they could dispel the improper influences like thistle-down before the wind, for the ballot is in their hands. Why don't they assume their share of the responsibility?—*The Waco Morning News*.

The third annual convention of the Mothers' Congress in Texas was held at Waco. The state officers present were: Honorary president, Miss Eleanor Brackenridge, San Antonio; president, Mrs. J. N. Porter, Dallas; third vice-president, Mrs. R. S. Lazenby, Waco; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. S. Turner, Dallas.

Miss Eleanor Brackenridge, of San Antonio, said the Texas Congress of Mothers was doing great good, and the state would derive the benefit. The president then read her annual report. Opportunity was offered the mothers of Texas by the Congress of Mothers to build up a great structure, to sustain and support the great educational movements which the state was endeavoring to establish. The work of the organization could not be accomplished by any other. Commendation was given the State Federation of Women's Clubs for fostering and encouraging the mothers' movement in the state. Every child, at birth, had the right to three institutional blessings, the right to a good home, a good school and a good church. Gratitude was expressed for the passage of the child labor law.

Under the caption of "Our Accomplishments," the many projects that have been carried to successful completion were briefly epitomized.

The president referred to the value of the stereopticon in carrying on the work of mothers' clubs. An effort was being made to collect slides at Dallas, these to be sent to various schools in the state for educational purposes.

Various recommendations were made in the president's annual report, together with suggestions for carrying them out.

Mrs. Turner urged simplicity of dress for high school girls, and this was applauded.

The president asked for real, live, interesting discussions. She stated that the

sessions of the Texas Congress were open to everyone.

The report of the Press Committee was made by the chairman, Mrs. N. B. Ford, of Dallas. She believed thoroughly in the gospel of the press, which penetrated where the human voice could not reach. She expressed appreciation of assistance given the press committee by the various county chairmen.

Miss Brackenridge, of San Antonio, honorary president, alluded to the benefits to be derived from membership in the state and national organizations. Motherhood work required money. Women who had no children of their own instinctively opened their hearts to children, especially those who needed mothering.

A response to the addresses of welcome was made by Mrs. G. E. Zimmer, of Houston. She said the opportunities of the Texas Congress of Mothers were limitless. It was gratifying to know that interest had been awakened in the necessity for conservation of child welfare. Juvenile courts and schools for delinquents were needed, Mrs. Zimmer said.

R. E. Toms, United States highway engineer, spoke on the topic, "Good Roads and School Improvement." The pecuniary advantages of good roads had been found to be extremely great. The social and intellectual advantages by reason of improved thoroughfares were not to be despised.

Mrs. Toms said the public schools were the backbone of our civilization, and good roads to these seats of learning were essentially necessary. Many parents kept their children away from school by reason of impassable roads, else they did not desire the little ones exposed to dangers that might result from being exposed to inclement weather, when bad roads were to be traversed. Good roads Mr. Toms said, would revolutionize the public school system, improving existing conditions very materially. Steps taken to insure good roads in various states were mentioned by Mr. Toms. The crusade for good roads and better schools must go hand in hand if the country boy is to receive the same vocational training as his city cousin.

The subject of good highways was deserving of the closest attention, said the speaker, and reference was made to the spread of tuberculosis, typhoid and other diseases as a result of dust.

Mr. E. A. Werner, supervisor of playgrounds in Dallas, delivered an address, stressing the necessity of playgrounds for children. The maintenance and conduct of playgrounds was discussed by the speaker. He told of the arrangement and supervision of the playgrounds, and said children would play on the street and under arc lights if they could not do better. A playground, equipment and supervision

must go together, as children must not be merely turned loose without supervision. A few children would dominate and take charge of the playground unless supervised properly. Supervision was imperative. Organization and system were absolutely necessary in conducting the playgrounds, the children being grouped. Separation of the boys and girls over nine years old was advised.

UTAH

The Utah Congress of Mothers has issued an attractive programme for the year.

Civic Righteousness, Mrs. C. D. Ripp; The Place of the Child in the Home, Bishop F. S. Spalding; The Child in Relation to the Community, Dr. E. I. Goshen; Domestic Science in Education, Prof. Wm. M. Stewart; Over-training of the Child; School Curriculum—are among the topics for consideration. The organization of new mothers' circles and parent-teacher associations will proceed under the leadership of Mrs. C. D. Ripp. A fine list of speakers who may be secured free of charge is offered through the Congress Extension Committee. Mrs. C. E.

Allen, the president, will give the list to those who desire to avail themselves of the offer.

VERMONT

Rutland has seven parent-teacher associations with a membership of nearly three hundred. These have been organized by Mrs. Harman with the help of Mr. Locke, superintendent of schools.

Mrs. J. W. Hart is president of an association in Jericho Centre. St. Johnsbury and Burlington are also organizing. The interest in the Mothers' Congress is increasing, and Vermont promises a large membership.

The parent-teacher associations organized in Rutland are already planning to buy land for a playground. The men are very much interested. Several have already contributed \$500 within a week. There is great interest throughout the state. The High School was also organized. Bellows Falls, Springfield, Poultney, Randolph, Fairhaven and St. Johnsbury are considering organization.

(Mrs.) H. A. HARMAN,
Vermont Organizer.

How to Organize Mothers' Circles

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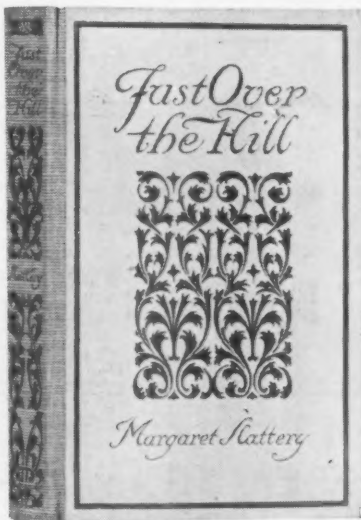
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